

Lawrence Robertson
278 Sanborn Rd
White Salmon WA 98672

Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to you concerning the recent petition submitted to the FCC by the US Telecom Association to nullify certain requirements of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, specifically the unbundled network elements (UNEs) that allow my local carrier GorgeNet to operate. In 2001 I decided to retire from my full time job in the great Portland, Oregon, area and move to a rural setting in Klickitat County, Washington. At that time I starting using the GorgeNet services, and have been doing so ever since. I have also maintained my land line with Century Link throughout this period.

I am very pleased with my 17-year experience with GorgeNet Internet services, but much less pleased with my Century Link experience. As they have a monopoly over the land line services in our area, unless my wife and I want to go totally to cell phones (which we do not!), we have to use Century Link. This has been a large expense for a mostly retired couple who needed 2 land lines so I can conduct a small part time business as a consultant, including frequent business calls.

My Internet expenses with GorgeNet have been much more reasonable due to the competition. As I understand it, if the petition submitted by US Telecom is approved, we would be back to getting the same or less services at a higher price from Century Link. This would represent a huge step backward for rural consumers like us. This is obviously anti-competition, and certainly is not what the country needs now.

Lawrence Robertson